

California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the

Medical Society of the State of California

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Official Register, - - -

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All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be Typewritten.

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VOL. XI

JULY, 1913.

No. 7

EDITORIAL NOTES

"INHUMAN COMEDY."

Any one who thinks that the editorial note in the last issue entitled "New State Insane Asylum" was harsh and unkind to our noble and intelligent (?) legislators (and we have been informed that there are a few such critics), ought to read the editorial in the San Diego *Union* of May 25, 1913. "Yorick," the writer in the San Diego *Union*, thinks the legislators were fools; is it not more charitable to regard them as merely insane? Here is some small portion of what he writes; unfortunately we have not space for all of it:

"I have been trying to review the antics of the legislative circus from the mental attitude of a spectator in the reserved section of a top seat midway between the two rings. (It was a two-ringed affair, populated mostly by clowns.) But the circus folk, including the trained monkeys and the educated pigs, were so absurdly foolish that a fellow-feeling compelled me to throw my own cap into both rings and mix with the freakish aggregation; they appealed so irresistibly to my sense of the ridiculous that I couldn't resist taking part with them in their tomfoolery. There has been nothing like it on the face of the earth since Nebuchadnezzar ate grass in Babylon; there has been no folly quite so viciously imbecile since King David prayed the Lord to turn the counsel of Ahthopol into foolishness to the end that it might not corrupt Absalom conspiring against his father's throne; the only parallel I can find in Scripture is in that remarkable passage declaring that the princes of Zoan are

become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived by the wise men of Pharaoh who have seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. I am something of a connoisseur in foolishness, and I am always intensely interested when I am fortunate enough to find an especially perfect specimen of the folly bird. It was beyond my fondest expectation, therefore, when I met up with that Sacramento bunch of Merry Andrews and consorted with the contents of the legislative menagerie."

Is that bad?

LAWYERS' AND DOCTORS' FEES.

If you consult a lawyer about a transfer of some lot, or the signing of a deed or a contract or something of the sort involving, let us say, only a thousand dollars or so, he will charge you from \$25 to \$any-old-number. But the lawyer will take his pregnant wife to a doctor for an opinion—which he gets for from \$2.50 to \$10; or his child, whose life or death may depend upon the diagnosis and advice given by the physician, and if the doctor charges more than ten or twenty dollars the lawyer will be furious. We forget that it is not our moments of time that we are selling to our patients—or more often giving to them—it is our brains, our thought, our experience, the years of suffering we have felt—and seen—and which we have so heart-breakingly tried to prevent. Perchance it is just because we have suffered so much in ourselves and our patients and feel first for the life of the patient, that it leaves us the poor fools that we are, unable to put a charge upon our advice that would in a measure pay us for the hours of work, anxiety and study that have made it possible to give that advice. Who can put a price on life; on health; on happiness? Least of all the man who is called upon to save and conserve these priceless things, life and health and happiness; for what is life worth without health—and can there be happiness without it? How often do we see the millionaire enjoying his money and his estate and the physician, who saved to him that life, struggling to pay a mortgage on his humble home. Let us, without becoming unduly commercial, try to learn to put a relative value upon everyday things.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE; AN ERROR CORRECTED.

Some members got the erroneous idea from an editorial in the last issue that the telephone exchange in San Francisco, which is working well and is very useful, was a place where anyone could have a doctor recommended. That was not the idea at all. We took up the suggestion made in the *Journal A. M. A.*, that such 'a physicians' telephone exchange would be of the greatest use in an emergency. For example, a serious accident occurs at Fillmore and Geary streets and a number of people are injured; doctors are needed immediately. Who knows what physicians live in that section, or are at home, or can be reached quickly? No one. But the exchange has a list of physicians who can be reached at once; out of several hundred doctors